Amendments to the Specification

The second full paragraph on page 4 has been amended as follows:

--For example, various straps between the upper and lower plates may be attached, [[there by]] thereby allowing lateral displacement between the plates, but preventing unwanted separation of the plates. Additionally, in accordance with various embodiments of the present invention, the retaining mechanism (such as, for example, retaining straps) may provide additional damping effects. In accordance with further aspects of the present invention, various mechanisms may provide stability and damping effects, as well as contamination prevention, such as a rubber, foam, or other sealant (gasket) about the perimeter of the plates.--

The last paragraph beginning on page 4 has been amended as follows:

--Further still, in accordance with various embodiments of the present invention, the first open pan structure moves in the horizontal plane without moving relative to the second open pan structure in the vertical plane by a factor, pre-selected factor, relating to the maximum possible horizontal displacement relative to the second pan. Similarly, the first open pan structure may be configured to move in the horizontal plane when the second open pan structure is moving at a rate of up to a pre-selected [[forces]] force without the first open pan structure moving more than a pre-selected distance in

the horizontal plane and relative to the second open pan structure.--

The last paragraph beginning on page 5 has been amended as follows:

--In accordance with various exemplary embodiments of the present invention, an isolation platform 10 is provided to filter vibrations and reduce noise in devices supported by platform 10. Preliminarily, it should be appreciated by one skilled in the art, that the following description is of exemplary embodiments only and is not intended to limit the scope, applicability, or configuration of the invention in any way. Rather, the following description merely provides convenient illustrations for implementing various embodiments of the invention. For example, various changes may be made in the design and arrangement of the elements described in the exemplary embodiments herein without departing from the scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.--

The last paragraph beginning on page 6 has been amended as follows:

--With further particularity in the presently described exemplary embodiment, the downward and upward bearing surfaces [[comprising]] comprise central apices having the same curvature as that of the rigid spherical balls such that a restoring force is substantially constant. Additionally, the surfaces have recess perimeters [[have]] having the same curvature as that of

the spherical balls and connect the central apices and recess perimeters with continuous slope. Thus, the curvature of the spherical balls and the downward and upward bearing surfaces are configured such that as the spherical balls and upper and lower plates displace laterally relative to one another, vertical displacement of upper and lower plates is near zero.--

The second full paragraph on page 8 has been amended as follows:

--In accordance with the exemplary embodiment shown in Figures 3 and 4, connecting members 80 are attached to segments 70 in any manner suitably strong enough to withstand the vibrations of platform 10 experiences as well as the weight placed on platform 10. Similarly, the materials of segments 70 and members 80 should be strong enough to [[with stand]] withstand the same. In the present exemplary embodiment, segments 70 are comprised of stainless steel and members 80 are comprised of A36 mild steel, though any materials exhibiting the aforementioned properties may be substituted.--

The first full paragraph on page 10 has been amended as follows:

--In accordance now with still another embodiment of the present invention, and with reference to Figure 7, a floor 401 supports an access floor 402, which in turn supports platform 403. As described above, equipment 404 rests on platform 403 and is suitably restrained with cable ties 405 to an upper support

406, such as, for example a ceiling. Thus, during seismic floor motion, equipment 404 can displace to position 407, whereupon ties 405 (restrainers) became taught 408, preventing overturning of [[equipment404]] equipment 404.--

The second full paragraph on page 10 has been amended as follows:

--In accordance with yet another embodiment of the present invention and with reference to Figure 8, a lower frame 501 rests on isolation bearings (not shown for clarity) on an upper frame 502. Frames 501, 502 combined with bearings (not shown for clarity) thus form platform 10. Telescopic dampers 503, 504, 505 and 506 connect frames 501, 502 at their respective corners. In various embodiments, dampers 503, 504, 505, 506 may be air, hydraulic or friction type dampers generally having small force and long strokes and are strategically located between the ball bearings of said platform. In the [[illustrat4ed]] illustrated [[embodiment.]] embodiment, dampers 503 and 505 damp in an x-direction, while dampers 504, 506 damp in a y-direction. Thus, in combination dampers 503, 504, 505, 506 provide torsional damping to platform 10.--